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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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COAL MINE REGULATORS SEEK PUBLIC INPUT

(Salt Lake City) -- The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is asking for public input on how best to interpret and apply environmental regulations governing the permitting and operation of coal mines in the state. A public meeting will be held in Castledale on Thursday, May 29, 2008, in the Canyon Room of the Emery County Courthouse, 95 East Main Street. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

"The division has been working diligently for several months to address a legislative audit of the Coal Program that was released in December of last year," said Division Director John Baza. "Many good discussions and staff analyses have resulted from our efforts, and before we implement future changes we now wish to have public input concerning our work."

The audit identified process improvements for the division's Coal Program that when implemented will more effectively and efficiently serve the interests of the citizens of Utah. "It's important to note that the audit was not connected in any way with the disaster at Crandall Canyon," said Baza, "Our responsibilities are concerned solely with the enforcement of surface environmental regulations and not with underground mine worker safety."

Public comments may also be sent directly to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Comments may be mailed to the attention of John Baza, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, PO Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114-5801, or emailed to johnbaza@utah.gov. Comments are due no later than June 13, 2008.

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining regulates and ensures industry compliance and site restoration while facilitating oil, gas and mining activities. For additional information on division activities visit our website at www.ogm.utah.gov.

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